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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

I AM THE GREAT
AND POWERFUL
WIZARD--

--AND MY
ROBOT-SPIDER
WILL *SLAY*
YOU, WEB-
SLINGER!



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THE WEATHER FORESHADOWS THE COMING EVIL...

SINCE DAWN, A WIND WITH THE BITE OF WINTER IN IT HAS BEEN BLOWING OFF THE STEEL-GRAY ATLANTIC...



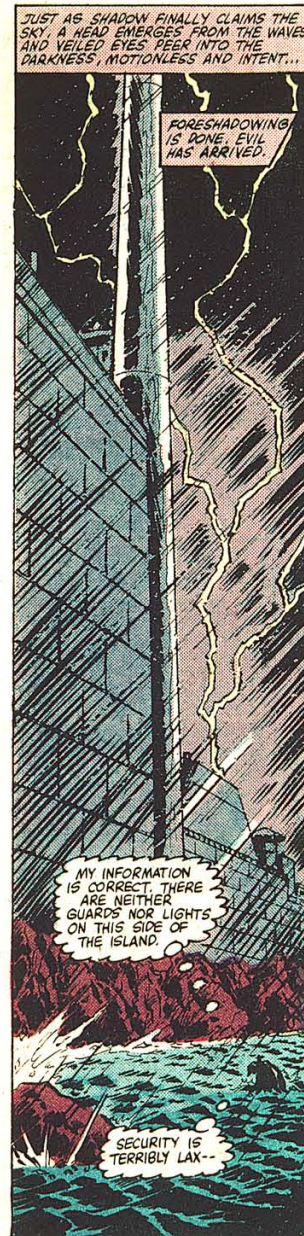
AT DUSK, RAIN THE COLOR OF SLATE SWEEPS DOWN TO CHILL AND HARSHEN THE CITY PETER PARKER SHARES WITH EIGHT MILLION HAPPY, LONELY, PROUD AND DESPERATE SOULS...

THE WATERS OF THE BAY CHURN...



--AND THE EAST RIVER SLAPS AND SNAPS AT ITS BANKS AS CROWDS ON EITHER SIDE HURRY TOWARD SHELTER AND WHATEVER WARMTH THEIR LIVES AFFORD

THIS IS NEW YORK IN NOVEMBER AND IT IS BLEAK...



JUST AS SHADOW FINALLY CLAIMS THE SKY, A HEAD EMERGES FROM THE WAVES AND VEILED EYES PEER INTO THE DARKNESS, MOTIONLESS AND INTENT...

FORESHADOWING IS DONE, EVIL HAS ARRIVED.

MY INFORMATION IS CORRECT. THERE ARE NEITHER GUARDS NOR LIGHTS ON THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND.

SECURITY IS TERRIBLY LAX--



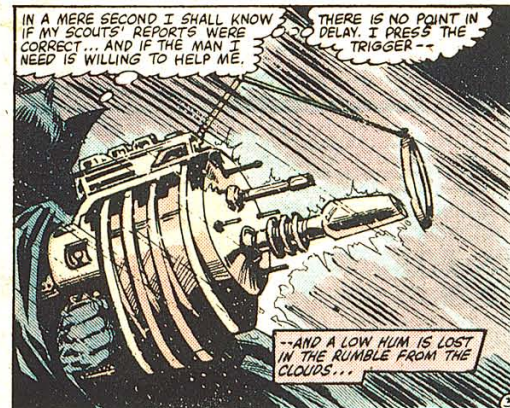
--NOT THAT THE FOOLS WOULD BE ABLE TO STOP ME IF THEY WERE PRESENT.

IF MY QUARRY IS WHERE IT SHOULD BE--



--WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER.

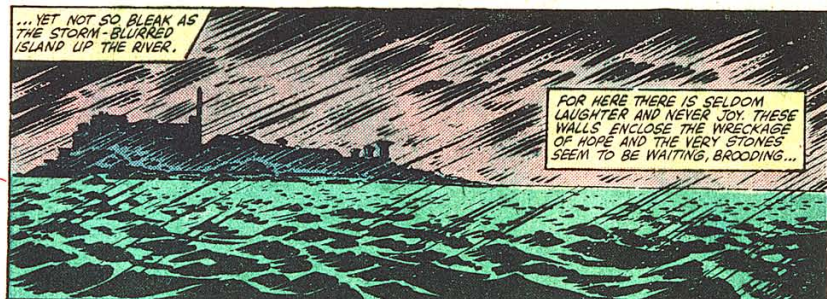
MY WEAPON IS FULLY CHARGED AND THE AGRED UPON MINUTE IS AT HAND.



IN A MERE SECOND I SHALL KNOW IF MY SCOUTS' REPORTS WERE CORRECT... AND IF THE MAN I NEED IS WILLING TO HELP ME.

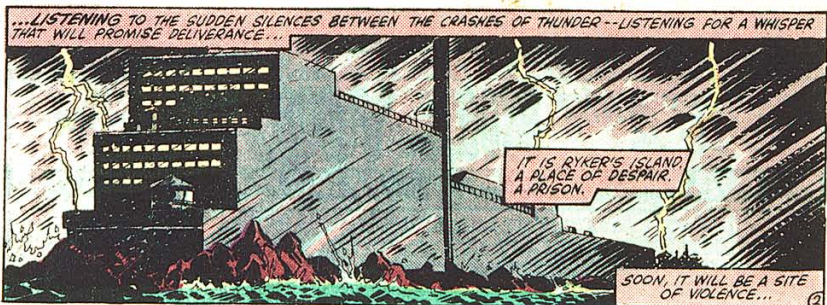
THERE IS NO POINT IN DELAY. I PRESS THE TRIGGER--

--AND A LOW HUM IS LOST IN THE RUMBLE FROM THE CLOUDS...



...YET NOT SO BLEAK AS THE STORM-BLURRED ISLAND UP THE RIVER.

FOR HERE THERE IS SELDOM LAUGHTER AND NEVER JOY. THESE WALLS ENCLOSE THE WRECKAGE OF HOPE AND THE VERY STONES SEEM TO BE WAITING, BROODING...



...LISTENING TO THE SUDDEN SILENCES BETWEEN THE CRASHES OF THUNDER--LISTENING FOR A WHISPER THAT WILL PROMISE DELIVERANCE...

IT IS RYKER'S ISLAND, A PLACE OF DESPAIR, A PRISON.

SOON, IT WILL BE A SITE OF VIOLENCE...

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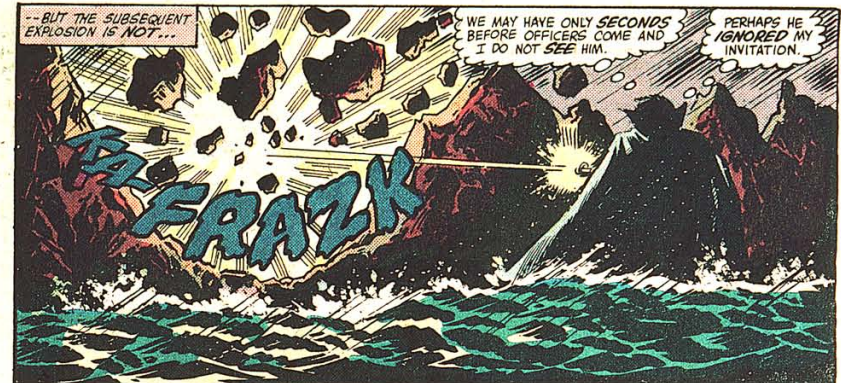
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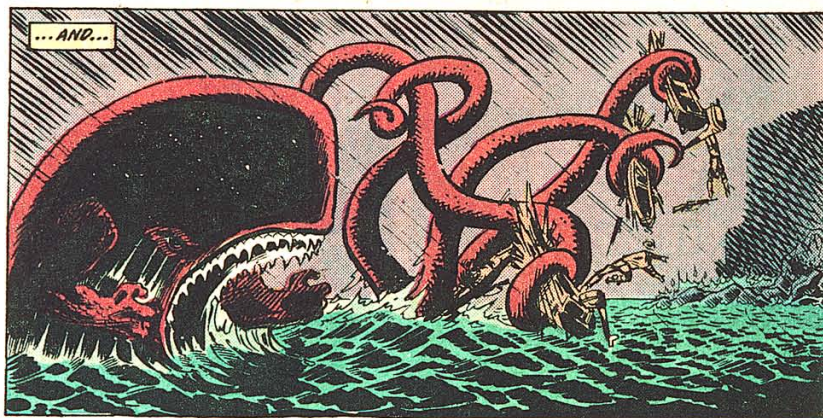
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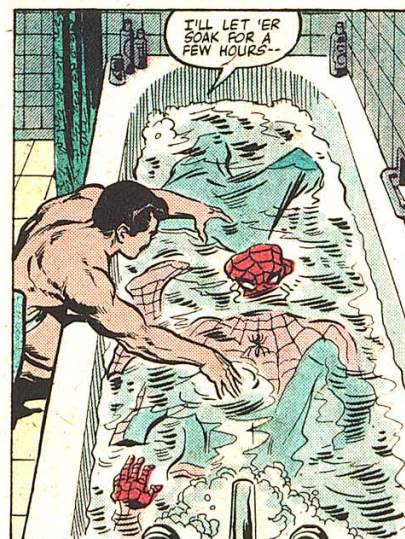
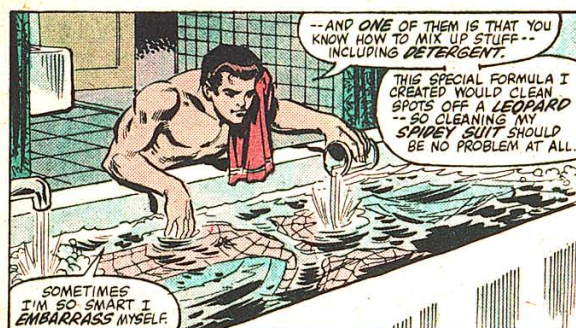
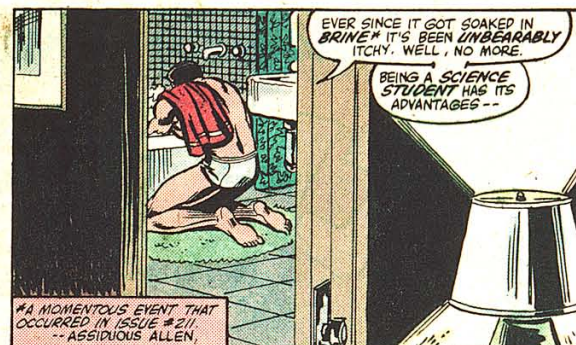
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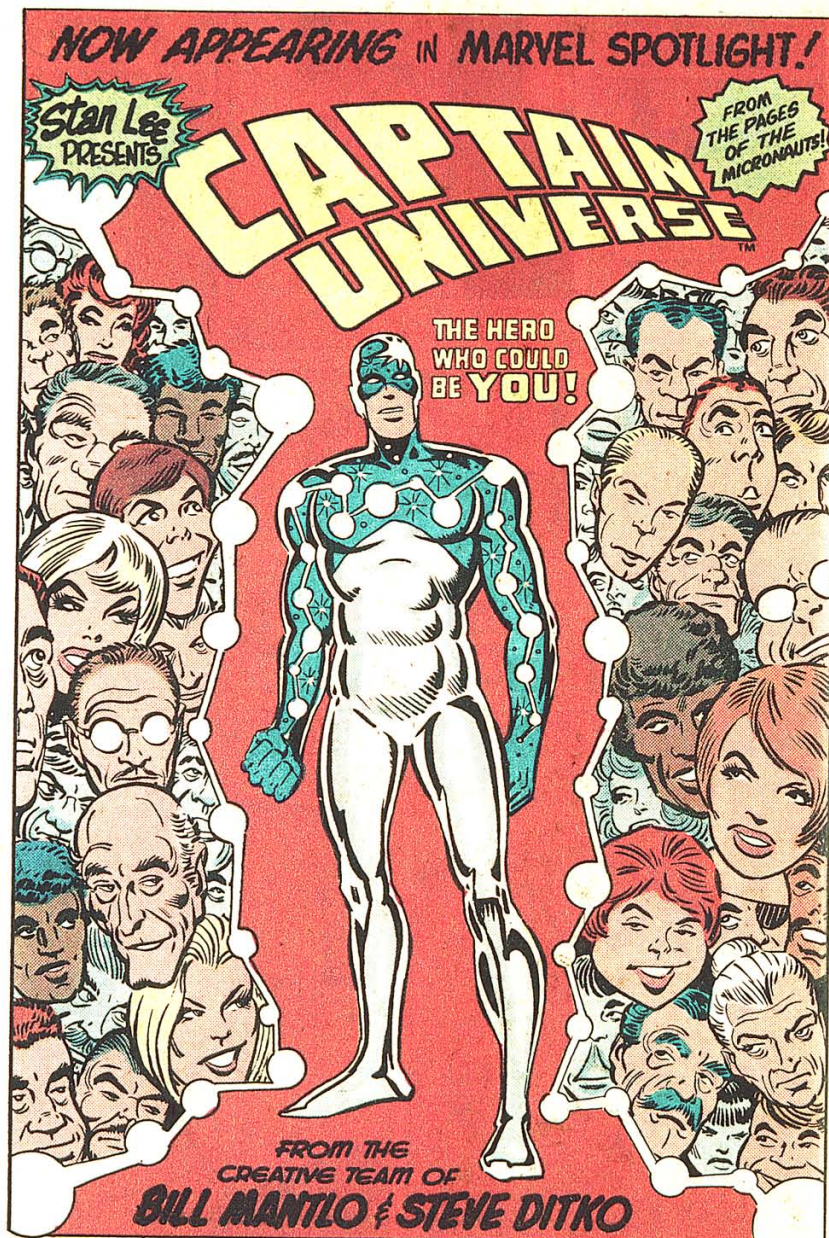
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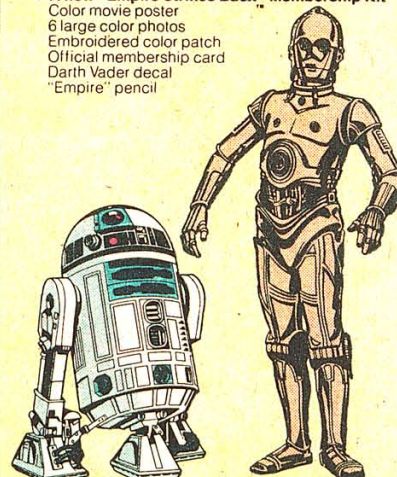
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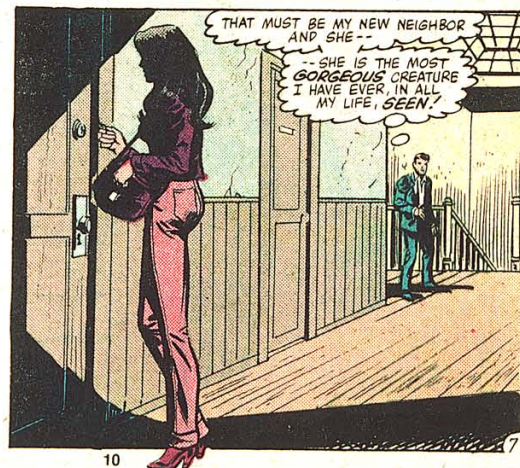
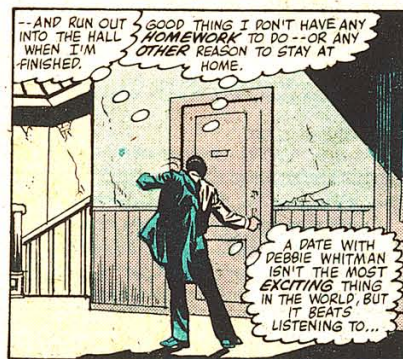
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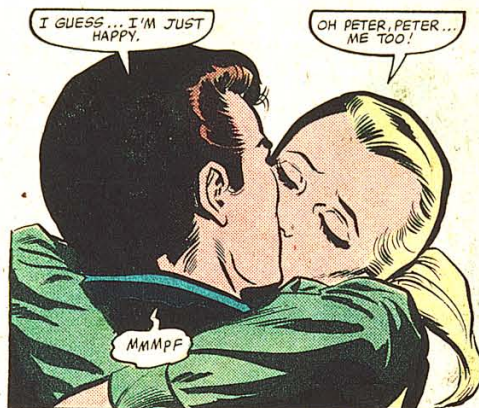


11



I GOT A MILLION OF 'EM!
ISN'T MISS LIBERTY GORGEOUS?

SHE CERTAINLY IS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.



I GUESS... I'M JUST HAPPY.

OH PETER, PETER... ME TOO!

MMPF

AFTER THE SUDDEN, HEATED INTIMACY, THERE IS A SILENCE THAT LASTS UNTIL THEY REACH DEBBIE'S GREENWICH VILLAGE APARTMENT. THEN...



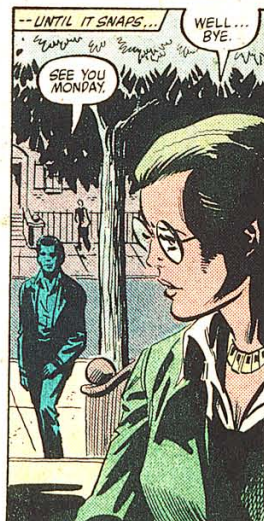
IT'S BEEN A GRIN-AND-A-HALF, DEB.

ARE YOU HUNGRY? I COULD FIX SANDWICHES.



'FRAID NOT, I'VE GOT LAUNDRY AND... THINGS.

MAYBE NEXT TIME.



--UNTIL IT SNAPS...

WELL... BYE.

SEE YOU MONDAY.



I HAVE A FEELING DEBBIE'S GOTTEN THE WRONG IDEA. SHE KISSED ME LIKE SHE MEANT IT AND...

...AND TO ME, SHE'S A NICE KID, PERIOD.

DEBBIE'S EYES ASK A QUESTION SHE DESPERATELY WANTS ANSWERED, AND THE INSTANT STRETCHES BETWEEN THEM--



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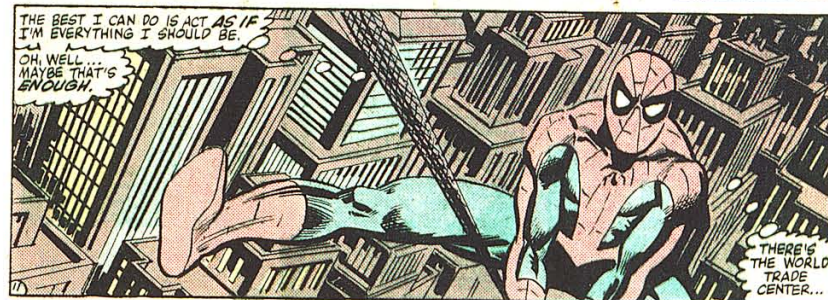
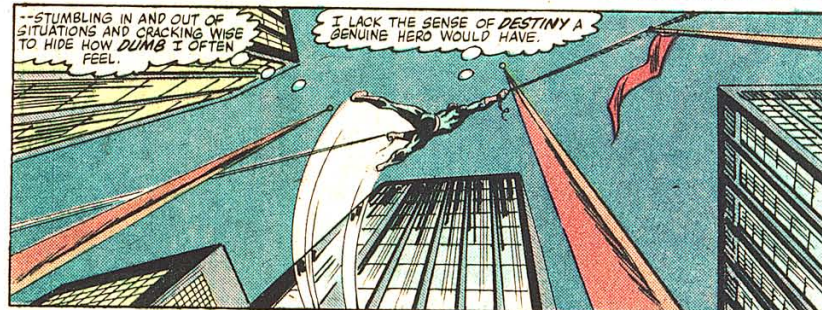
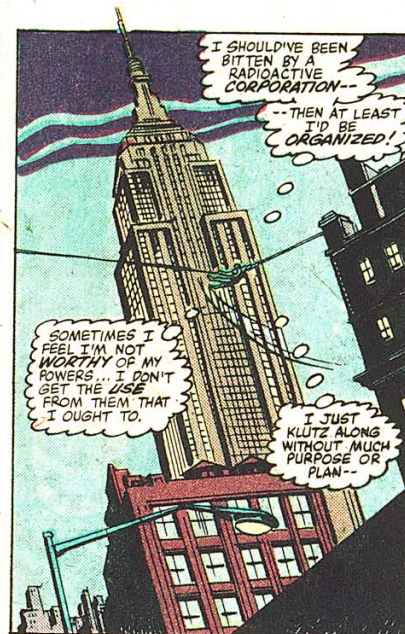
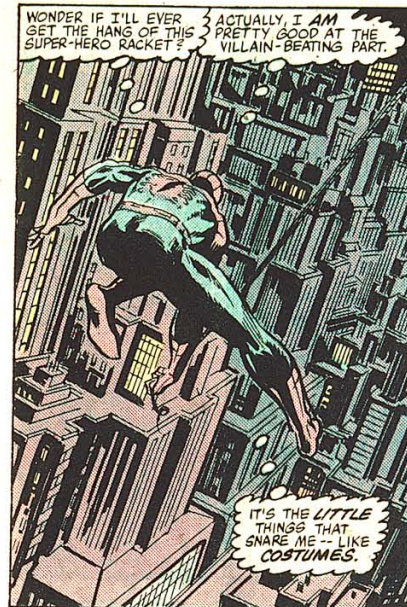
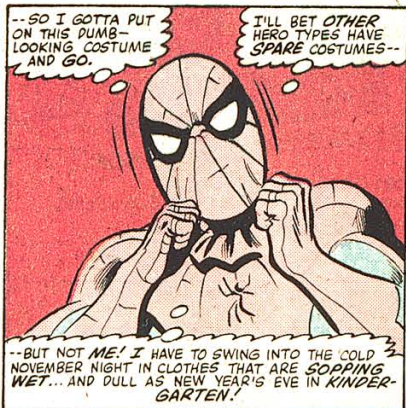
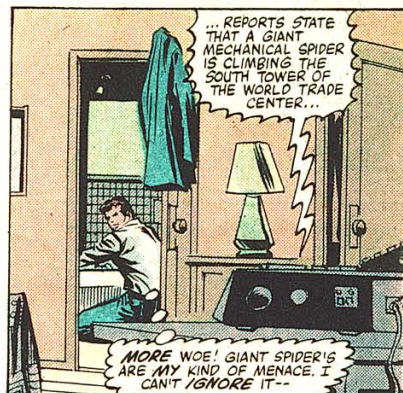
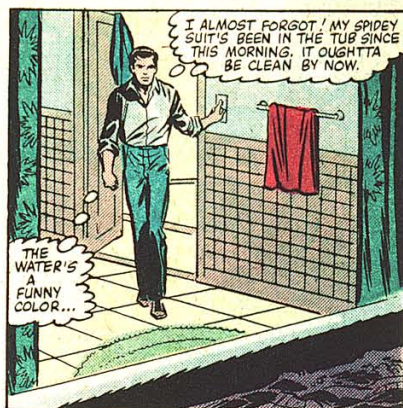
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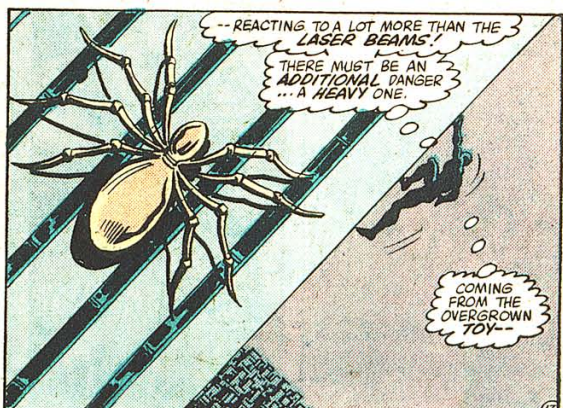
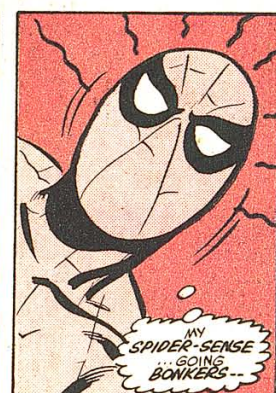
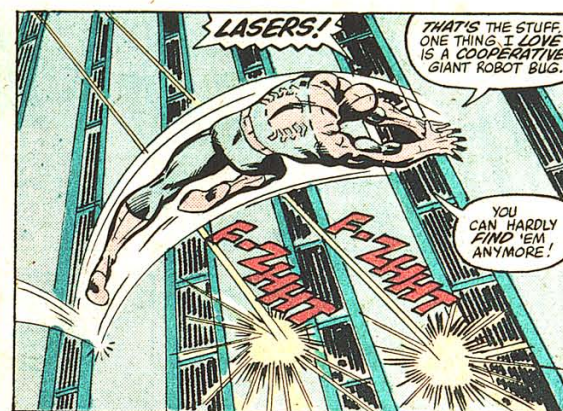
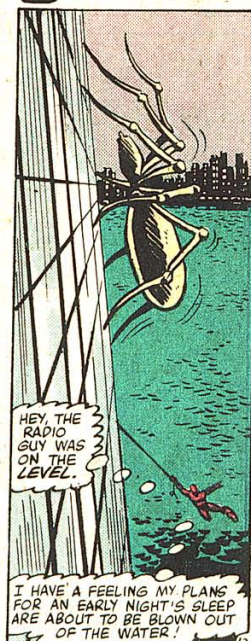
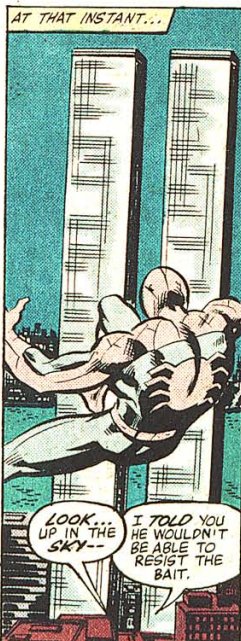
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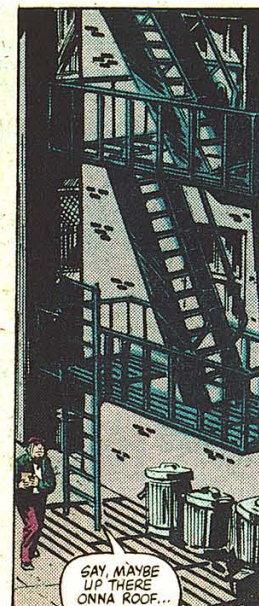
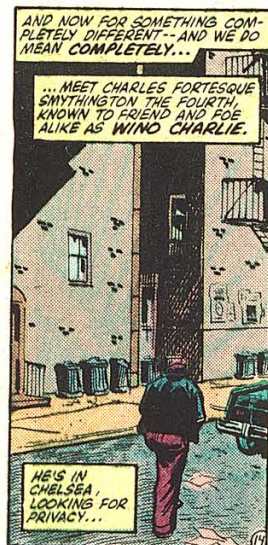
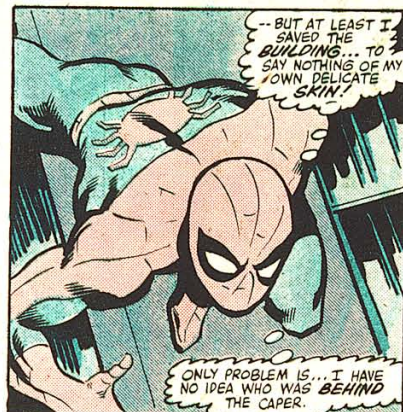
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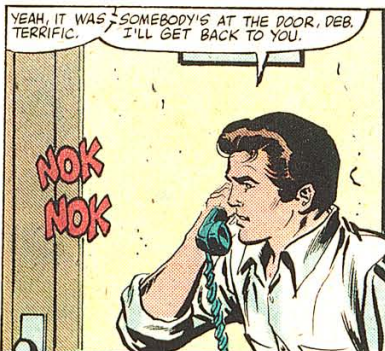
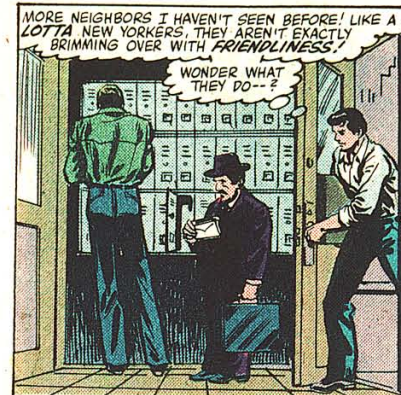
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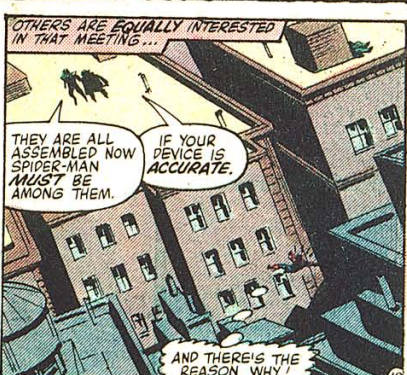
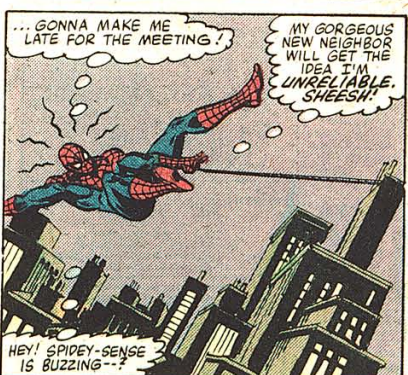
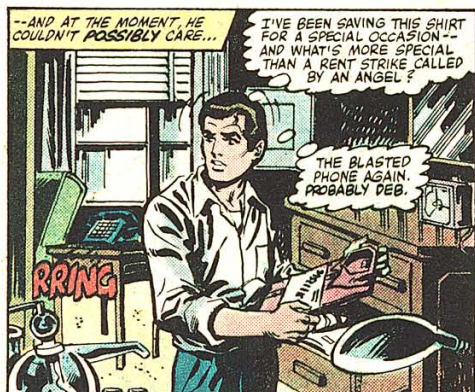
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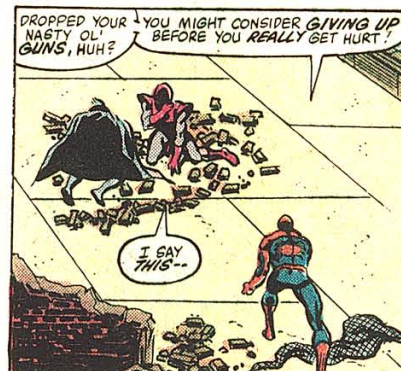
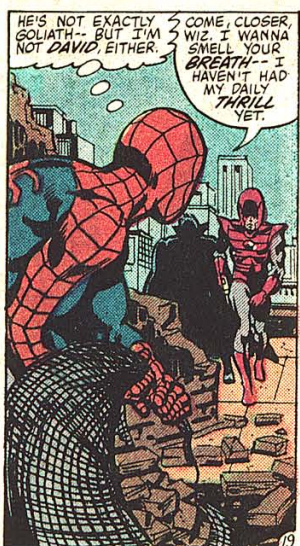
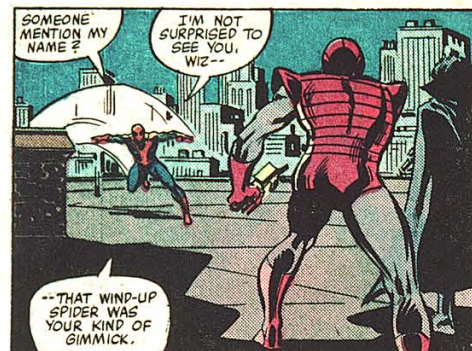
(OR FACE THE WRATH OF THE DREAD DORMAMMU!)

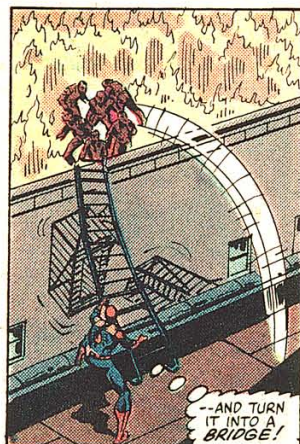


LET EVIL BEWARE...

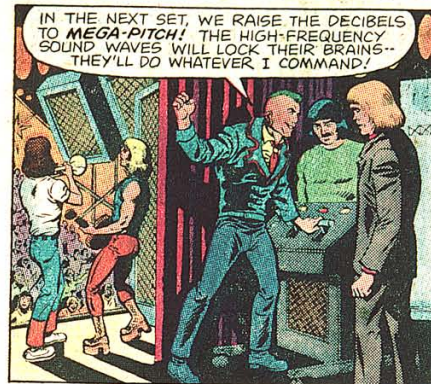
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HUH--! THE SMOKE'S CLEARING--

--AND I CAN SEE SOMEBODY LEFT OVER THERE--



WINDO CHARLIE. REMEMBER HIM?

THE MAN'S OBVIOUSLY OUT COLD. HE'LL BE ROASTED--

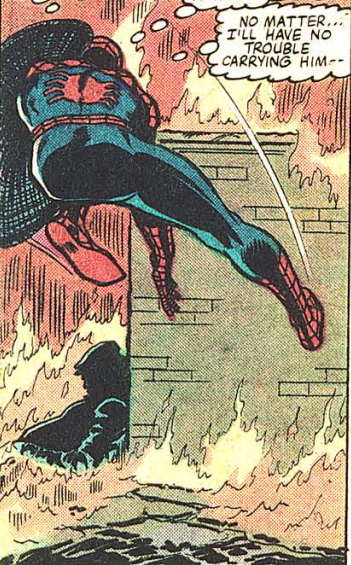


--UNLESS I HAUL HIM TO SAFETY.

THE WEBBING SHOULD AT LEAST PARTIALLY PROTECT ME FROM THE HEAT, AS FOR THE FLAMES--



I CAN JUMP OVER THEM. WONDER WHO THIS GUY IS. HE'S A COMPLETE STRANGER TO ME.



NO MATTER... I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE CARRYING HIM--

EXPLOSIONS HAVE WEAKENED TIMBERS AND JOISTS, AND THE FIRE HAS WEAKENED THE SURROUNDING WALLS. THE ROOFTOP CAN BEAR NO MORE WEIGHT--



--AND DOESN'T--

NEXT ISSUE: THE WIZARD TRIUMPHANT!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

As always, it was a joy to read through this month's batch of letters. It's nice to be reminded that you people really care. Now, let's dip into the mailsack at random...and come out with Jacky Ballas's comments on something that concerns us all...

Dear Marvel,
First off, I'd like to thank you for a wonderful issue. SPIDER-MAN #208 was the best Spidey tale since, well...since SPIDER-MAN #207. Everything was great: art, script, letters, colors. Why...even James Shooter did a great job.

Seriously, though, I'd like to direct your attention towards the true point of this letter, which is the unavoidable ten cent hike of everyone's favorite Marvel mags.

Firstly, I, and I'm sure many other Marvelites, would like to thank you for holding the line on all your Marvel mags at forty cents for such a long time. After all those economic squabbles and the recession, I was surprised that you didn't hike your prices long months ago. But alas, like the long delayed day of Ragnarok, it had come to pass. However, the reader doesn't really lose, he wins. How? Simple. Marvel has promised us (and Marvel always keeps its promises) extra pages, special features and "more excitement than you can wiggle a web at". Surely, those promises more than make up for a ten cent hike. Lastly, Marvel did not moan over the increase and point an accusing finger at anybody. What Marvel did, however, was to apologize to its readership. Far too often do corporations up prices without reason, much less apologize.

Yet we all feel the pinch of inflation and I'm sure I speak for many when I say no apology is needed. After all, we're all only human (or armadillos). So don't feel bad. Keep your promises (and give us a permanent Spider-Man creative team) and everybody will be happy.

Loyally yours,
Jacky Ballas
Dollard-des-Ormeaux
Montreal, Canada

Thanks, Jacky. We'll try to be worthy of your faith in us.

Dear Marvel:
Well, everyone makes mistakes and you guys made a minor one. In SPIDER-MAN #208, Spidey says, "The comic guy with the cape never has these problems." I presume you meant Superman. If you did, I've got two questions: If Superman is in the comics in Spider-Man's world, then why a few years ago did Spider-Man fight him? I still have that classic and I'm sure you guys remember when you teamed up with your arch-rival DC. Are you saying old Supes never fought the Webslinger?

Not at all, Josh. Just because someone appears in a comic book doesn't mean they don't exist. I'd guess Spidey read about Supes both before and after really meeting him. And while we're on the subject...the second titanic teaming of Spidey and the Soup is in the final stages of preparation. Jim Shooter's scripting it, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott are doing the art and it'll be on sale in January. Just thought you were desperate to know...

Dear People,
With the price of comics moving up to fifty cents, I know I will be buying fewer comics this month. But SPIDER-MAN #208 has made that extra dime worthwhile. Fusion is the best character to appear in any Marvel mag this year.

Ben Feller
1331 Frontier St.
Hartsville, OH 44632

To Those Involved in SPIDER-MAN #208:
I'm sorry to say that the quality of Marvel comicbooks is going down the drain because of the growth of too many new characters. Sure, I'll admit that you have to try new ones to see what the readers like and dislike, but that doesn't mean you have to do it every other issue. We readers want to know what the older characters have been up to. I write this for me but also for others who feel the same way.

Sincerely,
Kirk Noren
4800Portland Rd.
Portland, MI 48875

Dear Marvel,
You got me hooked. SPIDER-MAN #208 was another classic. Please try to have another story about Fusion. It was a great -- no, a terrific! -- issue with Denny O'Neil as writer.

Paul Joy
14 First St.
Belleville, Ont. Canada

Dear Marvel Madmen,
SPIDER-MAN #208 was fabulous! The cover really impressed me, although the price depressed me. Johnny Romita, Junior's layouts were great -- hope he stays on. The art was far above par and reminded me of Romita Senior's. The story -- phantasmagorical! I don't think I've read a story like it since the early days of Lee and Ditko -- a nice, simple, one-issue, start-to-finish, action-packed story.

Ted Slampyak
458 Acorn Drive
Warminster, PA 18974

Hope we spelled your last name correctly. Ted, Some armadillo spilled Dr. Doom's crankcase oil -- also known as Marvel coffee -- on the envelope and your signature got blurred. (Who says this isn't the Marvel age of painful honesty?)

Dear Marvel,
I noticed one mistake in SPIDER-MAN #208. On page 11, panel 5, when Fusion jumped from the window Spidey said they were six floors up. But on page 14, panel 2, Spidey was in a third story room leaning out the window. Other than this, everything was excellent.

Jeff Kolker
Star Route Box 1145
Prior, OK 74361

You probably wouldn't believe a shrinking hospital, would you? Naw...we'd think so. How about you believe a super hero who can't count? How about a writer who can't count?

Dear Marvel,
I've joined the band wagon again! I had to stop buying Marvel comics for two months because my work during my Senior year in high school started to pile up on me. Well, now that graduation is only one week away, I decided that it was time to start reading Spidey again. I went down to my friendly neighborhood store and bought SPIDER-MAN #208, of which I have the following to say: the story was great, the art was fantastic and the price was awful. It was a fine issue to come back to, though.

Scott R Hamula
511 Watkins Road
Horseheads, NY 14845

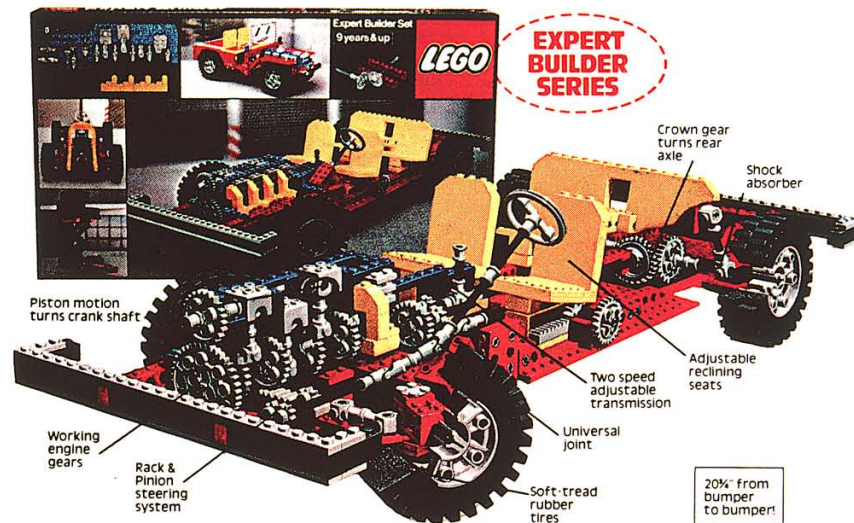
And we're glad you did, Scott.
NEXT ISSUE...Oh, lots of nifty stuff, including the return of two villains (though you may not recognize one of them) and a new development in the edgy Peter Parker-Debra Whitman relationship. It's the start of a new chapter in the saga of everyone's favorite Wall-crawler and we want you in on it. Till then,

Peace
Denny

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #72 - The Thing and the Inhumans tackle Molemen!
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #35 - Anger the Screamer! He'll drive you crazy!
- ☐ STAR TREK #91 - The Enterprise is at the mercy of...Scotty? How? Why?
- ☐ MACHINE MAN #15 - The terrible tricks of Jack O'Lantern!
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #213 - "Oh to see...the Wizard!" Plus, a mystery villain!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #254 - The return of Cap's WWI weapons for Baron Blood!
- ☐ THOR #304 - Thor battles the Wrecker and his Wracking Crew!
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #26 - The HydraSHIELD! Micro war. Plus, Baron Kessel!
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #53 - The fury of the She-Witch!
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #4 - A committee of assassins have Moon Knight in their sights!
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #45 - "Demons in My Sanctum!"
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #258 - Greenank vs. Israel's Super Heroine, Sabral!
- ☐ VENGEERS #204 - The return of the Yellow Claw!
- ☐ CONAN #119 - Conan fights for the undead soul of his grandfather!
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #124 - (Reprints Spider-Man #147) - The Tarantula and the Jackal team up against Spidey! Bonus: Origins of the Inhumans!
- ☐ X-MEN #142 - Showdown with the new Brotherhood of Evil Mutants!
- ☐ ROM #15 - Brandy gets married -- to a Dire Wraith!
- ☐ POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #67 - Cage at the mercy of Bushmaster!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #227 - Suddenly -- the Brain Parasites!
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #102 - Spidey and the Hulk's buddy, Doc Samson, become partners in peril!
- ☐ IRON MAN #143 - Space-dust! the Surturion!
- ☐ PETER PARKER #51 - The aliens' secret! Plus: Mystery!
- ☐ DEFENDERS #92 - If the Defenders can't save Elektra...the Universe dies!
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER ACTION #28 - (Reprints Avengers #67) - The vengeance of Ultron-61! Plus: the Hulk!
- ☐ STAR WARS #44 - At last! The final chapter of The Empire Strikes Back!
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #97 - Shang Chi confronts his own dark side!
- ☐ SGT. FURY #102 - (Reprints Sgt. Fury #68) - Fury's deadly furlough!
- ☐ WARRING SHE-HULK #13 - Guest starring Hellcat and Man-Whirl!
- ☐ WHAT IF #25 - "What If Thor went to War Against Odin?" Guest starring the Avengers!
- ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #58 - More adventures of Britain's favorite time traveller...Dr. Who!
- ☐ EPIC #4 - Dazzling fourth issue featuring: Moorcock's *Epic*, adapted by Thomas and Russell; Stan's *Metamorphosis Odyssey* plus new wonders from Robert E. Howard, Harlan Ellison, and more as the visual odyssey moves over onward! Cover by Michael W. Kaluta.
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF COBAN #60 - "The Ivory Goddess!" Plus: info on the Conan cult!
- ☐ CRAZY #70 - The Best of Crazy! Plus: an all-new bonus - "Everything You Need To Form Your Own Rock Group And Make Millions Of Dollars Even Though You Have Absolutely No Musical Ability WHATSOEVER." Whew!
- ☐ MARVEL PREVIEW #24 - We have seen the future and it is... PARADOXI! Not for kids!

MARVEL MAGAZINES



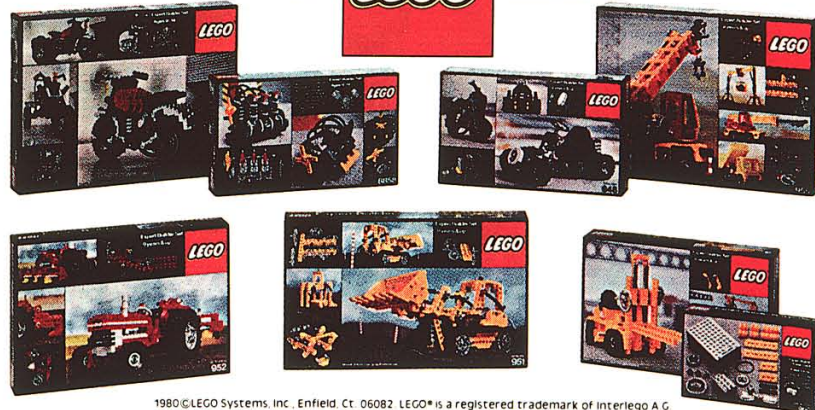
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